

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Agency consists of 26 departments, boards, commissions, and conservancies responsible for administering programs to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance the natural, historical, and cultural resources of California.

The Budget includes total funding of \$9.2 billion (\$2.8 billion General Fund) for all programs included in the Agency.

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### ALISO CANYON AND REGULATING GAS STORAGE FACILITIES

In late October 2015, a leak was discovered expelling natural gas from a well at the investor-owned, utility-operated Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility in Los Angeles County. After nearly four months, the leak was confirmed sealed on February 18, 2016 by the Department of Conservation. During the leak, more than 8,000 households requested temporary housing as a result of health and public safety concerns.

As part of the state's response to this incident, the Governor issued an Emergency Proclamation in early January to direct multiple oversight agencies to focus on the following main principles: (1) address the immediate threat to public health and safety by directing efforts to plug the leak, (2) ensure that accountability falls on the operators of the facility, (3) take steps to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future, and (4) implement necessary actions to ensure energy reliability.

The Budget includes \$13.8 million to implement the Governor’s Emergency Proclamation, enhance efforts to improve public safety statewide, and strengthen oversight of gas storage facilities.

### Significant Adjustments:

- **Underground Gas Storage Facilities**—An increase of \$4.2 million Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Administrative Fund and 20 positions for the Department of Conservation to increase regulatory activities at underground gas storage facilities.
- **Natural Gas Storage Facilities**—An increase of \$1.5 million Public Utilities Commission Utilities Reimbursement Account and 10 positions to support Public Utilities Commission regulation of natural gas storage facilities.
- **Public Safety**—An increase of \$1.7 million Public Utilities Commission Utilities Reimbursement Account and 11 positions to establish a Division of Safety Analysis within the Public Utilities Commission to focus on safety issues and advocate for the protection and safety of California residents as a party to Commission proceedings.
- **Air Quality Monitoring**—An increase of \$2.3 million Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Administrative Fund and 4 positions for the Air Resources Board to support neighborhood air quality monitoring near oil and gas facilities and enhance emergency response capabilities. Additionally, the Budget includes \$350,000 Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Administrative Fund and two positions for the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to coordinate with and support Air Resources Board neighborhood air quality monitoring near oil and gas facilities.
- **Electricity and Natural Gas System Reliability**—An increase of \$1.7 million Public Interest Research, Development, and Demonstration Fund and 3 positions for the Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to monitor, model, and analyze the interaction of electricity and natural gas systems for reliability.
- **Aliso Canyon Moratorium**—An increase of \$2.1 million Public Utilities Commission Utilities Reimbursement Account and 7 positions for the Public Utilities Commission to implement the provisions of Chapter 14, Statutes of 2016 (SB 380), which continues the moratorium on injecting natural gas at the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility until specified criteria are met, including testing. Additionally, SB 380 requires the PUC to open a proceeding to determine the feasibility of minimizing or eliminating use of the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility while still maintaining energy and electric reliability for the region.

## DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

CAL FIRE provides resource management and wildland fire protection services covering over 31 million acres. It operates 235 fire stations and, on average, responds to over 5,600 wildfires annually.

Significant Adjustments:

- **Helicopter Replacement**—An increase of \$12 million General Fund for CAL FIRE to begin a competitive procurement process to replace its existing fleet of helicopters. This funding will support the purchase of one helicopter in 2016-17 and enable CAL FIRE to develop a multi-year plan for purchasing additional helicopters over the next few years. CAL FIRE currently operates 12 Vietnam-era military helicopters. These aging helicopters are becoming more costly to maintain and are not equipped with modern technology that enables night-flying capabilities. Replacing the existing fleet with new helicopters will enhance CAL FIRE's initial attack effectiveness, improving its ability to contain wildfires quickly before they spread.
- **Professional Standards Program**—An increase of \$4 million (\$3.6 million General Fund) and 14 positions for three years to establish a dedicated central unit responsible for implementing a comprehensive program addressing training and education of all employees, personnel investigations, and adverse actions. CAL FIRE will provide annual reporting to the Legislature on the progress and development of the program.

## CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS

The California Conservation Corps was established in 1976 by Governor Brown to provide young women and men the opportunity to work on conservation projects and respond to natural disasters. The Corps builds trails, plants trees, conducts water and energy efficiency assessments, implements clean energy and water conservation projects, and provides fire response and support. During difficult economic times, many of the Corps' residential centers were closed. The Budget includes funding to open a new residential center this year, as well as evaluate additional locations for future residential expansion.

### Significant Adjustments:

- Butte Fire Center—An increase of \$2.6 million General Fund to allow the Corps, in partnership with CAL FIRE, to open a residential center in the Magalia Conservation Camp with three fire crews totaling 47 corpsmembers.
- Site Evaluation—An increase of \$400,000 General Fund to initiate a site selection process for residential centers in Pomona, Napa, and Ukiah. This future residential expansion will allow the Corps to transition from non-residential facilities in Napa and Pomona to facilities giving corpsmembers the opportunity to live on site.
- Auburn Center—An increase of \$19.7 million General Fund to construct a kitchen, multi-purpose room and dorm replacement at the Corps' Auburn Center.